



BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR..... 1956

(Including the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector)

BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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VICE-CHAIRMAN:-..... Miss A.G. Biddlecombe

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L. Tory.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.D.H. Mayes. M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR with combined duties as Surveyor.

G.S.C. Udall. M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.F.S., (Eng.)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

M. Stockley. Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of
Blandford:-

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Dr. J.B.M. Mayes I submit for your
consideration the vital statistics of your district.

G.B. HOPKINS.

AUGUST. 1957.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.
1956.

Area in acres.....	61, 717
Population as estimated by Registrar General.....	13, 630
Rateable value, 1956.....	£77, 962
Product of ld rate.....	£ 253.19.0

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Blandford</u> <u>Rural.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County</u>
Legitimate.....	153	70	83			
Illegitimate...	8	5	3			
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>			
	161	75	86	16.	15.7.	13. 8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>			

STILLBIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths)

Legitimate....	2	1	1
Illegitimate..	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

DEATHS. (All causes)

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Blandford.</u> <u>Rural</u>	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County</u>
83	33	50	8.3	11.7	12.5

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

INFANT MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000 live births)

Legitimate.....4	3	1	23.7	23.8	24.5
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DEATHS FROM:-

Cancer (All ages)	15
Measles (" ")	0
Whooping cough "	0
Diarrhoea "	0

There were two deaths from cancer of the lung.

SECTION A

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres..... 61. 717

Population..... 13, 630

DEATHS

83 deaths were assigned to the district by the Registrar General, yielding a standardised death rate of 8.3, which is a favourable figure.

BIRTHS

There were 161 live births, giving a standardised rate of 16 which is fairly close to the national birth rate.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths attributable to this cause.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken for the removal of any old persons in need of care and attention during the year.

SECTION B

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester continues to give the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice-cream, and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious, or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castleman House, Blandford.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an ante-natal clinic and an Infant Welfare Centre once a fortnight. These are held at the Congregational Hall, Blandford.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme has provided a service in Blandford and the surrounding district. It is doing excellent work.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES. Cases notified during the year, 1956

Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Measles.....	132
Whooping cough.....	37
Pneumonia.....	22
Scarlet fever.....	12
Tuberculosis.....	7
Food poisoning.....	89
Dysentery.....	12
Erysipelas.....	3

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male.....	13	Male.....	8
Female.....	9	Female.....	2

FOOD POISONING

During the year there were three outbreaks of food poisoning at Blandford Camp. The first outbreak was sporadic, spread over a period of three months and confined to children between the ages of nine months to 15 years, the majority of them living in the Blandford Camp Married Quarters. It would appear that a large number of young children in the Camp had symptoms of food poisoning during the Easter week-end but received no medical attention.

During July there was a minor outbreak in the Camp. Four officers, two cooks and a waiter were taken ill after partaking of meals in the Officers' Mess.

The third outbreak took place at the beginning of December when 58 men were taken ill. Specimens were sent to Dorchester Laboratory and profuse growth of food poisoning organisms were recovered from stew. All the men recovered within twenty four hours. It is thought likely that rats may have carried infection.

In all three cases thorough investigations were made.

SECTION D
STATISTICAL TABLES - 1956.
CAUSES OF DEATH

	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	3	3	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	4	1	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	1	-	1
16. Diabetes.....	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system..	3	14	17
18. Coronary disease, angina..	4	5	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease...	-	2	2
20. Other heart disease....	5	12	17
21. Other circulatory disease.....	-	1	1
22. Influenza.....	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.....	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis.....	2	1	3
25. Other disease of respiratory system.....	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum..	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	3	-	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	2	7	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	-	1
34. All other accidents.....	-	-	-
35. Suicide.....	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-

33 50 83

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1956

Notification in Age Groups.

65

DISEASE.	Under 1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	Over.	TOTAL
Puerperal Pyrexia.									1				1
Measles.	2	4	17	9	13	72	12		3				132
Whooping cough.	2		7	4	4	18	2						37
Pneumonia.			5	2	1		1	4		1	4	4	22
Scarlet fever.		1	1	1	7	2							12
Tuberculosis.								3	2	2			7
Food Poisoning.	1	2	6	3	2	4	5	1	64	1			89
Dysentery.....		3	3	2	1	2				1			12
Erysipelas.....												3	3
TOTALS.....	5	10	39	21	28	98	20	8	70	5	4	7	315

CAUSES OF DEATH - Children under one year.

Two infants under one week of age, and one three months of age died from congenital abnormality. One infant died at two months from prematurity.

SECTION E
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - 1956.

WATER SUPPLY.

<u>Water Source.</u>	<u>Villages supplied.</u>	<u>Properties served.</u>	<u>Population served.</u>
Blandford Borough.	Blandford St. Mary Charlton Marshall Spotisbury Pimperne Langton Long.	Whole - except for few isolated.	1040 approximately
Shaftesbury RDC.	Shroton Stopleton Farrington.	Whole - except for few isolated.	430 approximately.
Bryanston Borehole. (Council controlled)	Bryanston Durweston Stourpaine.	Whole - except for few isolated.	1220 approximately.
Winborne & Cranborne Rural District Council.	Farnham.	Village only - about 40.	120 approximately.
Milborne.	Whole of Winterborne Valley. Milborne. Milton Abbas. Milton.	All properties except a few isolated.	3000 approximately.
Stubhampton.	When in service whole of Tarrant valley. Chettle. Farnham.	Not yet in service. Work in hand.	Nil at present.

A start was made towards the end of the year on the Tarrant Valley Water Scheme, based on the borehole at Stubhampton. Ministry sanction for the scheme to commence was obtained only after repeated representations and a long list of recorded unsatisfactory samples had been submitted in support.

Durweston and Stourpaine are now permanently connected to the Bryanston supply, this area forming the first part of the proposed Stour Valley Water scheme. The Blandford Forum Borough Council at present control the other part of the Stour Valley area.

From the following table it will be seen that private supplies still remain generally unsatisfactory.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING
1956

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Council owned and supplying public.	53	2
Private estate supplying public.	23	8
Private estate supplying Council houses.	11	6
Private wells.	14	24
Other local authorities supplying through Council's system.	7	-
Public supplies not controlled by the Council.	20	1
	128	41

DRAINAGE OF DISTRICT

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>Existing System.</u>	<u>Council House System</u>	<u>Remarks on situation.</u>
Anderson.	Nil	Nil.	No urgent need.
Blandford St. Mary.	Main sewers.	On sewer	Few to connect.
Bryanston.	Old Village system.	Separate system.	Old village system -not satisfactory.
Charlton Marshall.	Nil	Separate system.	Need for sewer.
Chettle.	Nil	Nil	E.C's and Cesspits.
Durweston.	Old Village system.	Separate system.	Need for sewer.
Farnham.	Nil	Separate system.	E.C's and Cesspits.
Hilton.	Nil	Two separate systems.	E.C's and Cesspits.
Shroton.	Old Village system.	Cesspits.	Unsatisfactory - urgent need for sewer.
Langton Long.	Nil	Nil	E.C's and Cesspits.
Milborne.	Main sewer.	On sewer.	Few cesspits still remain.
Milton Abbas.	Main sewer.	On sewer.	" " " "
Pimperne.	Nil	Separate system.	Urgent need for sewer.
Spetisbury.	Nil	Separate system.	E.C's and Cesspits.
Stopleton.	Nil	Nil	Sewer not required.
Stourpaine.	Old Village drains.	Separate system	Need for sewer.
The Tarrants.	Sewer round borehole.	Separate system.	No urgent need.
Tarnworth	Nil	Nil.	No urgent need.
Winterborne Stickland.	Nil	Separate systems.	Need for sewer.
Kingston.	Nil	Separate systems.	Need for sewer.
Whitechurch.	Nil	Separate systems.	No urgent need.
Clonston	Nil	Nil.	No urgent need.
Houghton	Nil	Nil.	No urgent need.
Zolston.	Nil	Nil.	No urgent need.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

Two new tips were opened during the year, one at Farnham which can only be used in dry weather, and the other at Red Post, which is acting as reserve for Winterborne Kingston Tip. Winterborne Kingston Tip has been unused most of the year because of fire. The fire was still burning in December.

A resident complained to the Police that articles of clothing had been taken by the workmen. Apparently the articles were put out with the refuse in the bin and were emptied into the lorry. For two days the refuse tip was searched for the missing articles, but only the container, a hold-all type of bag was recovered. Unkind remarks were made regarding the Council's staff but I was of the opinion that "tip scroungers" had removed the things after our men had gone from the tip.

In twelve years this is only the second occasion on which such a matter has happened.

Salvage figures are slightly down on the year, compared with 1955, but this has been mainly due to lower prices prevailing. Tonnage is slightly increased. Salvage figures for 1956:-

Waste paper 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons.....	£195.9.9
Rags - 15 cwt.....	19.14.10
Scrap metals-15 cwts.....	42. 0. 8
Batteries.....	4.11. 0
	<u>£261.16. 3.</u>

Workmen's bonus has been paid on this amount at 7/6d in the £.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

Fly nuisances were still much in evidence during the year but less than was expected. Action during the previous Winter seems to have had some effect. Unfortunately most ratepayers appear to breed fly grubs in their dustbins for the Council to hatch out on the refuse tips and be blamed for creating fly nuisances. Both powder and liquid treatment is regularly carried out on the tips.

An unusual complaint from one village was to the effect that dead pigs were left lying around for dogs to get at and were causing bad smells. This was one of those rare occasions when the Police were called in to deal with the matter under the Diseases of Animals Acts.

Complaints were made up as follows:-

Housing.....	36
Drainage.....	17
Infestations.....	11
Obnoxious smells..	6
Refuse.....	3
Food.....	2
Water.....	2
Miscellaneous.....	6
	<u>83</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
PREMISES.

New food regulations came into force during the year and all premises affected have been supplied with a copy of the Food Byelaws, extracts of the Food Regulations and a Notice to Food Handlers. Good co-operation is obtained from all premises with very few exceptions. The new regulations are being enforced where it is found to be necessary.

An outbreak of food poisoning at Llandford Camp brought an appeal from the Military Authorities for assistance, which was gladly given.

There are seventy-nine food premises in the district, of which twenty-four are licences premises.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number of Factories and Workshops on Register at the end of the year:-	
(a) With mechanical power.....	29
(b) Without mechanical power.....	11
(c) Other premises coming within the Act.....	24
(d) Deletions from Register during the year.....	2
Number of inspections made.....	63
Number of informal notices.....	4
Number of notices complied with.....	2
Number of outworkers on Register.....	0

RODENT CONTROL

	<u>Council</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Agric.</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total number of visits made.....	295	1250	195	328	2068
Total number of premises inspected:-					
(a) On complaint.....	9	41	3	3	56
(b) On survey.....	134	457	57	129	777
Number of premises treated:-					
Rats.....	18	107	2	10	137
Mice.....	3	23	6	2	34

Infestations on tips were kept down by regular inspections and sewage plants are visited regularly. Infestations generally appeared to be fewer than in 1955, although the weather and lack of food brought the rats in from the fields earlier, giving the appearance of a small increase in infestations at the end of the year.

The figure of 171 premises treated can be compared with the figure of 370 in 1955.

DETAILS OF VISITS.

Nuisances and Complaints.....	136
Refuse disposal.....	122
Rats and Mice.....	2078
Infectious Diseases.....	14
Disinfestations.....	22
River Pollution.....	38
Animals.....	2
Food poisoning.....	50
Meat and Foods.....	134
Ice Cream.....	6
Milk samples.....	8
Water supplies general.....	37
Water samples.....	190
Sewerage schemes.....	154
Sewerage samples.....	8
Housing Acts.....	497
Caravans.....	32
Old People.....	5
Factories and Workshops.....	41
Rights of Way.....	2
Civil Defence.....	3
Miscellaneous.....	113
Number of meetings attended.....	98

HOUSING

A. Number of new houses completed during the year:-

(1) By Local Authority:

(a) With State Assistance for rehousing under Housing Act, 1936, and for overcrowding.. . . . 0

(b) With State Assistance for other purposes..... 19

(c) Without State Assistance..... 0

(2) By other persons:-

(a) With State Assistance..... 3

(b) Without State Assistance..... 13

B. Number of new houses commenced during the year but not completed:-

(1) By Local Authority with State Assistance..... 20

(2) By other persons:

(a) With State Assistance..... 0

(b) Without State Assistance..... 7

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Application for grants for the improvement of houses continue to be received, but the numbers have fallen off during the year. 21 compared with 49 for 1955. One application was refused.

The amount of grant money allocated during the year was £4,514 (£12,460 in 1955) involving 23 dwellings.

G.S.C. UDALL.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956

